

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 20, 2015



We Care To make you better

Campaign 2015 Heading Into the Home Stretch

Foundation Still Needs Community Support to Reach Goal

Sackville - The Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation's We Care To make you better Campaign 2015 is well past the half-way point of its \$100,000 goal! To date, just over \$70,000 has been raised to purchase a variety of much needed items to enhance the comfort, care and safety of patients at the Sackville Memorial Hospital (SMH).

Campaign Chair Elaine Smith is delighted with the loyalty and generosity of our community thus far, but stressed that \$30,000 remains to be raised to meet the campaign objective. She encourages anyone who has not yet made a donation to do so as this latest campaign will touch virtually every department at the SMH.

"We are on the "home stretch" and still need the support from the community, individuals, corporations, and organizations to bring the campaign to its completion," says Smith.

The SMH is known for its exceptional **Emergency Room (ER)** service. Over \$20,000 has been earmarked for the ER this year including a Cardiac Ultra Sound Probe (\$8,250), an accessory which will maximize the use of the ultrasound equipment bought previously by the Foundation. The probe, which can be used at the bedside, will allow a better quality view of the heart, making diagnosis quicker and improving management of the treatment provided. Also on the list for the ER is a reclining exam/procedures chair offering medical staff access to their patient from both sides, and an inflatable air mattress system increasing ease, comfort and safety when transferring patients between a bed and a stretcher designed specifically to reduce staff injuries.

More than \$36,000 will be invested on the **Brunswick Unit**, a 21 bed inpatient unit that provides necessary treatment for diseases such as cancer or severe episodes of illness such as a stroke. The Unit's goal is to ensure patients, mainly seniors, are healthy and stable prior to being discharged. Items to be purchased include two pressure mattresses for prevention and treatment of ulcers, a reclining geriatric chair which easily re-positions when sitting and helps patients with dementia, a bariatric wheelchair for obese patients, 23

bedside stands and overhead tables, two booster seats, oxygen stands for wheelchairs, and a TV for the patient lounge.

Occupational Therapy (OT) will receive a specialized wheelchair at a cost of \$8,600. This particular wheelchair can be tilted back, allowing gravity to assist the patient to stay upright in the chair should they have weak trunk control, as often occurs when someone has a stroke, for example.

A barrier-free examination table designed to make it easier to treat patients will replace an aging one in the **Ambulatory Care Clinic** (where care is delivered on an out-patient basis). In addition, much needed modular seating will be purchased for the waiting area. The new seating will be washable, which is important for infection control, as well as offer space for obese patients. Over \$21,000 will be invested in the Ambulatory Care Clinic.

Cardiac Services will be provided with a Holter monitor, which continually tracks a patient's heart rhythm for a 24 hour period, and a blood pressure monitor. There are currently four Holter and blood pressure monitors. The new equipment will allow two additional patients per week to have access to these heart services which are provided in the Diagnostic Imaging (radiology) Department. Local residents aren't required to travel to Moncton for this testing as the information from the Holter monitor is able to be downloaded at SMH and read by cardiologists at The Moncton Hospital.

This \$100,000 investment will improve patient care at our hospital. The impact that these purchases will have is significant as the items will improve quality of life and safety for patients and reduce infection rates and length of stay.

You can still help. If you haven't already, please consider making a donation today.

A number of local volunteers continue to work diligently on the campaign to find the remaining funds needed to reach the campaign goal. If you would like to make a donation or organize a fundraiser, please contact the Foundation at 364-4204, drop by the hospital, or donate securely on-line at www.smhf.ca.

If the the campaign goal is exceeded, the additional funds will be used on the Hospital's other priority needs. **Our Hospital. Our Health Care.**

-30-

For more information contact:

Julie Thebeau, CFRE
Sackville Memorial Hospital Foundation
smhfoundation@horizonnb.ca
(506) 870-2699

